



THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

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JAB-O-METER	September 10	56,91,552 doses
TAKE YOUR SHOT	September 11	64,48,552 doses
TOTAL DOSES	73,72,104	
NATIONWIDE	SEPT 10	SEPT 11
Fresh cases	34,973	33,376
Recoveries	37,681	32,198
Deaths	260	308
KARNATAKA	SEPT 10	SEPT 11
Fresh cases	957	801
Recoveries	921	1,142
Deaths	10	15



DJOKOVIC EYES HISTORIC 21, MEDVEDEV STANDS IN WAY

Novak Djokovic looks to win record 21st Grand Slam title, faces Russian Daniil Medvedev in Sunday's US Open final

SERB'S NOTICE FOR MORE RECORDS

After beating Tokyo 2020 gold medallist Alexander Zverev in semis, the World No 1 is seeking his fourth US Open title and 21st Slam that will take him above all-time record he shares with Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer. He could be the oldest US Open champ since Ken Rosewall at 35 in 1970 and can complete calendar Grand Slam, first male player to do so since 1969 | P13

MEDVEDEV HOPES TO BE THIRD TIME LUCKY

Medvedev, the 2019 US Open runner-up, beat Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-4, 7-5, 6-2 to reach his third career Slam final. The final is a rematch of February's Australian Open final won by Djokovic 3-5. LIVE ON STARS SPORTS NETWORK: 1.30am (Monday)

20-10

DJOKOVIC'S WIN-LOSS RECORD IN MAJOR FINALS

Will address eco-losses in green budget, says CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

AT a time when the State, country and world are suffering from unprecedented floods, heat waves, coastal erosion and unseasonal rains, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai seemed willing to take a step towards mitigating the disastrous effects of these ecological disturbances, triggered by "ill-conceived projects and policies". Bommai on Saturday announced that he will come up with a green budget and make provisions to make up for ecological losses every year.

"The forest department in the State should start assessing the total green loss every year so that budgetary allocation can be made. This is the first time that such a provision

will be made. It's frightening to know that ecological degradation of the last two decades is equivalent to what occurred over the last 2,000 years," he said during the National Forest Martyrs' Day event at Aranya Bhavan on Saturday. "We hope this will help recover 50-60 per cent of the loss and ensure a sustainable life for the next generation. The green cover in the State stands at 43 lakh hectares (21.5 per cent), which is lower than the national average of 33 per cent. It should be increased," he added.

"Afforestation means not just planting saplings but involves a holistic approach to safeguard natural resources. If we don't take measures to stop ecological degradation, it amounts to stealing from the future," he remarked. P4

Sudden move comes after the state unit flags concerns over crucial Patidars tilting towards Aam Aadmi Party

Vijay Rupani resigns as Gujarat Chief Minister

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

IN an unexpected move, Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani resigned on Saturday. While Rupani said his decision was in tune with the BJP's tradition of regularly changing workers' responsibilities, sources claimed his exit came as the state unit did not want to contest the 2022 polls under him. Sources added BJP state chief C R Patil had recently told the central leadership the party should not fight the 2022 polls under Rupani as the crucial Patidar base was eroding due to the entry of Aam Aadmi Party.

Also, Rupani had been criticised for his handling of the Covid-19 second wave. There were reports of him not being in sync with state unit chief C R Patil, who tightened his grip on the party following creditable show at



the block panchayat and local body elections in March this year. His exit is seen as both an attempt at course correction and tackling anti-incumbency ahead of polls.

The BJP legislature party is expected to meet on Sunday to elect a new leader. Prominent names doing the rounds are Patil, deputy CM and Patidar leader Nitin Patel and Union minister Parshottam Rupala.

A BJP leader said, "Rupani is not popular with the cadre and is perceived to be a meek CM. His Gujarat is also not good. Rupani's speeches have become the laughing stock among the youth," a senior leader said.

Besides the shift of the Patidars to AAP, the prospect of a large percentage of other voters, too, tilting towards the AAP and the Congress had become real, the leader added.

IN THE RACE

Sources said Union minister Mansukh Mandaviya, a Patidar, is a front-runner for the CM's post. Lakshadweep Governor Praful Khoda Patel is also said to be in the race.

3RD BJP CM TO LOSE JOB

Rupani's exit is the third change the BJP has effected in state leaderships in as many months. Before him, the CMs of Karnataka and election-bound Uttarakhand were changed.

Guj Cong in a state of disarray

RICHA SHARMA @ New Delhi

THE sudden resignation of Vijay Rupani has deepened the worries of the Congress ahead of next year's state polls. While Congress leaders termed Rupani's exit as a reflection of the BJP-led government's failure in tackling the pandemic and other pressing matters, there's concern within the grand old party about its own state of affairs.

Several Congress leaders expressed concern that a delay in decision-making by the high command on several issues, including key appointments in the state

unit, could dent the party's poll prospects.

Gujarat Congress leaders said a change of face in the BJP ahead of elections could be a game changer for the ruling party. "The BJP will bring someone who will revive the party's electoral fortunes not only in 2022 assembly elections but also for 2024 Lok Sabha polls. It should worry leaders in Delhi as our state unit is in complete disarray and we still don't have a full-time party chief, Leader of Opposition and AICC in-charge of the state," said a senior Gujarat Congress leader.

CONTINUED ON: P10

NEET to be held today in offline mode

Bengaluru: The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) UG exam is scheduled to be held on September 12, in offline mode. The Department of Medical Education is confident that all necessary precautions have been taken at the centres and Karnataka is well-prepared | P2

Karnal farmers call off stir as govt orders probe

Chandigarh: Farmers agitating outside the mini Secretariat in Karnal called off their protest on its fifth day after the state on Saturday ordered a probe into last month's police-protester clash. Besides, the government sent the IAS officer in the eye of the storm, Ayush Sinha, on forced leave. Action against Sinha, who was the SDM at the time of the clash, was one of the prominent demands of the farmers. The protest was called off after the farmers and the government reached an agreement during the fourth round of talks. The probe would be conducted by a retired high court judge, and the report would be submitted within a month, an official said | P10

Mumbai woman who was raped dies in hospital

Mumbai: A 34-year-old woman, who had been raped and brutalised with a rod by a man inside a stationary tempo in suburban Sakinaka, died at a hospital during treatment in the early hours of Saturday, the police said. The suspect who was arrested within a few hours of the incident has been now charged with murder. While the Mumbai police formed a Special Investigation Team to investigate the incident, opposition BJP demanded capital punishment for the accused and questioned if women were safe in Maharashtra. Meanwhile, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray termed the incident as a "blot on humanity" | P10

Heavy rains pummel Delhi, inundate airport

New Delhi: Heavy rains pummelled Delhi on Saturday, inundating the Indira Gandhi International airport. Videos posted by travelers on social media showed people wading through Terminal 3. Aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said the area was cleared in 30 minutes | P9



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